

Environmental Education, Ecotourism, Spiny Lobster Management, Terrestrial Oil Spill Planning and Response, and Protected Area Management

Ecuador, Bolivia and Guatemala

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking multiple experts to provide technical assistance in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Guatemala.

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides assistance to other countries on subjects of Departmental expertise, on a reimbursable basis. The program is currently operating in seventeen countries with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

DOI-ITAP has partnered with USAID/Ecuador to provide technical assistance to selected protected areas in Ecuador since 1995. DOI and USAID/Ecuador seek to expand upon the significant contributions already made by DOI experts in protected areas of Ecuador such as the Galapagos National Park and the Condor Bioserve. In addition, DOI-ITAP is about to embark on a new program, partnering with USAID/Bolivia to provide technical assistance in and around natural sites and protected areas of Bolivia.

In Guatemala, DOI-ITAP has been providing technical assistance to the Government of Guatemala, the Mundo Maya Organization, the Inter American Development Bank, and non-governmental organizations within the Mayan Biosphere Reserve over the past 5 years. At the request of the Global Heritage Fund, DOI-ITAP is providing technical assistance and training to improve overall park management at the El Mirador National Park, located within the Mayan Biosphere Reserve in northern Guatemala. DOI-ITAP is following a carefully designed program that will help to create sustainable solutions for the protection of the El Mirador National Park resources while benefiting the local communities.

ASSIGNMENT: DOI-ITAP is assembling teams of experts to provide technical assistance in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Guatemala between May 2006 and December 2007. Applications are welcome from candidates with expertise in one or more of the following targeted areas:

1. Environmental Education/ Interpretation: DOI staff with expertise in environmental education and/or interpretation will help local communities and

NGOs to design interpretive programs around local natural resources and tourist attractions. The assignment will take place in and around protected areas near indigenous communities, who are seeking to develop their local economy with ecotourism.

2. Ecotourism Development: DOI staff with expertise in ecotourism development will help local communities and NGOs to design a plan for sustainable eco-tourism in and around protected areas near indigenous communities, in a manner compatible with local cultures.
3. Spiny Lobster Habitat: A team of experts with knowledge of spiny lobster management, particularly in the collection of post-larvae that will be re-introduced into suitable habitat, will provide assistance to the Charles Darwin Foundation, Galapagos National Park and university researchers in Ecuador. The team will help design and place collection devices in lobster habitat of the Galapagos, then participate in the collection and reintroduction of post larvae at select sites within the park. The team may also help develop mathematical models and analysis to help in population management. The team will give several formal talks to local researchers, park staff and other stakeholders, such as fishermen. Applicants from outside DOI will also be considered.
4. Protected Area Management: DOI staff with expertise in protected area management, including experience in administration, strategic planning, training, concessions management, and visitor infrastructure and interpretation, will participate in an assessment visit and/or technical assistance in their area of expertise.
5. Terrestrial Oil Spill Planning and Response: A team of DOI staff with expertise in the prevention of, planning for, and response to environmental impacts of terrestrial oil spills, especially on water resources, will provide hands-on technical assistance in Ecuador. Working with protected area managers, local municipalities, oil companies and water vendors, among others, the team will help develop a contingency plan for oil spills in watersheds.

SCHEDULE: ITAP is assembling two-four person teams for multiple assignments. These assignments typically range from two to three weeks in duration. The technical assistance will be provided in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Guatemala and applicants may be asked to travel to any of these locations. Technical assistance provided in Ecuador will take place between May 2006 and September 2007. A one to two-week assessment trip to Bolivia will take place between June and September 2006. Potentially, additional technical assistance in Bolivia would take place between September 2006 and December 2007. Technical assistance provided in Guatemala will take place between May 2006 and January 2007.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP. Background material will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with the DOI-ITAP manager, team colleagues, in-country counterparts, and USAID

representatives both before and after travel to the region. Selected individuals will communicate both over the phone and through e-mail on the preparation and follow-up for the technical assistance.

Within 3 weeks of the completion of the trip, each team will provide the DOI-ITAP manager a brief draft report of the trip events, evaluations made, and recommendations for future related training and technical assistance. For individuals selected to conduct the initial on-site assessment in Bolivia, the report will include an assessment of priority training and technical assistance needs, recommendations for addressing these priority needs with DOI expertise, and developing a draft workplan for providing requisite technical assistance.

COSTS: DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, immunizations, etc.). The salaries of the team members, however, must be paid by their employing DOI agency for the duration of the international assignment, including pre- and post-trip obligations.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Persons wishing to be considered for this assignment:

- Must be a current employee of DOI, (exceptions allowed for the spiny lobster assignment);
- Must have demonstrated experience in one of the five technical specialties detailed above;
- Must be willing to live and work in remote locations with “rustic” conditions during this assignment;
- Must have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- Must possess Spanish language proficiency (exceptions allowed for the spiny lobster assignment).

Highly desirable qualifications include:

- Previous international experience, particularly experience with protected area systems in other countries (please indicate if you have been to Bolivia, Ecuador or Guatemala and in what capacity);
- Previous experience with indigenous cultures;
- Certified scuba diver for the spiny lobster assignment.

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness for duty.

Candidates that reach the interview stage of the selection process must obtain supervisory approval for their participation in this program.

HOW TO APPLY

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment should send a resume and/or letter of interest detailing relevant work experience, specifically highlighting the technical specialty requested in this recruitment that you possess. A form SF 171 is acceptable. Please ensure that you include with your application materials the following administrative information; home and work address, phone/fax numbers, supervisor name and contact details (phone number and e-mail), whether you have a valid personal and/or official passport, date of birth, and grade/step. Please refer to the DOI-ITAP website, <http://www.doi.gov/intl/itap/> for additional information about our program, other short-term opportunity announcements, and our travel guidelines.

Submit applications (electronically is preferred) to:

Jillian R. Hume
Office of International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
MS 4426, Room 4456
Washington, DC 20240
Tel: (202) 208-4839
Fax: (202) 501-6381
E-mail: Jillian_Hume@ios.doi.gov

Applications will be reviewed as received on a rolling-basis. Positions will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is selected. Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible and all applications should be submitted no later than COB, April 21, 2006.

All NPS applicants should copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro in the NPS Office of International Affairs: email rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov or fax 202-371-1446.

Any questions regarding the details of these assignments can be directed to Jillian Hume (contact information above).

Selection Process

A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take a few months. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process, notification may be by telephone, email or letter.

This announcement has been developed in collaboration with NPS/OIA. The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements.